Foreign exchange outgo on electronic items

3461. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per piece value of foreign exchange outgo on each of the TV sets and VCR/VCP;

(b) what is the per piece total incidence of customs and excise duties on these items;

(c) how do Governmnet justify the wide variation of total percentage levy incident on 36 cm and 51 cm B & W TV, 51 cm CTV and VCR/VCP; and

(d) whether the variation is in harmony with the priority enjoyed by each of the products for the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The average foreign exchange outgo expressed as a percentage of the exfactory price in the case of VCR/VCP, Colour TV and Black and White TV is estimated to be as under:

VCR/VCP	40%
Colour TV (51 cm)	25%
Black and White TV	5%

(b) The per piece total incidence of customs and excise duties would vary from model to model. However, the total incidence of customs and excise duties expressed as a percentage of the assessable value is estimated to be as under:

Black and White TV	20—30%
Colour TV	50—60%
VCR/VCP	60—70%

(c) and (d) The rates duties are fixed keeping in view revenue and other considerations such as the state of industrial production of the item, consumption pattern and foreign exchange outgo.

Expansion of trade between India and Australia

3462. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken to expand trade with Australia;

(b) whether Government have established any joint venture for that purpose; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to promote India's business potential in Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Various measures to improve bilateral trade between India and Australia were discussed during the visit of the Australian Prime Minister to India in February, 1989.

An Engineering display in 1987, an Office and Business machines display in 1988 and participation in Bicentennial International Trade Fair in July, 1988 were organised to improve our exports in Australia.

(b) Presently, there are two joint ventures in Australia approved by the Government and promoted by Indian Businessmen.

(c) In the trade agreement with Australia, a Joint Trade Committee has been set up for review of bilateral trade and economic relations which meets usually once a year. Besides, a Joint Business Council has been established between the the sides. A number of items for increasing among the business communities of both the sides. A number f items for increasing industrial flats from India and promotoinal measures have been identified at the last meeting of the Joint Business Council held